

SEP -9 1921

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✓ THE ACE OF HEARTS ✓

✓ Photoplay in six reels ✓

✓ Written by Gouverneur Morris ✓

✓ Directed by Wallace Worsley ✓

✓ Author Goldwyn Pictures Corporation of
the U. S. as Employer for Hire ✓

"ACE OF HEARTS"COPYRIGHT SYNOPSIS:

The house of a certain brotherhood is situated in the heart of the city and in what appears to be the shabby genteel district. The interior is one of formal dignity and is well furnished. About a long table in the council chamber are gathered four members of this brotherhood - Morgridge, the chair, is reading a report to the doorkeeper and the chemist. Presently comes a knock at the door, a given signal and Forrest, a rather handsome young man, is admitted by the keeper of the door. In another moment this operation is repeated and Farralone, the artist member arrives. The chairman rises and reports the fact that their sister Lilith, not wishing to appear at the preliminary meeting, has empowered them to act in her stead. After which the speaker announces the fact that they are met to decree the Fate of a certain man whom they deem as a menace to the world. He calls first Forrest to testify. Forrest states that, as a waiter in a certain cafe, he has studied their marked man and knows but too well that the world is best rid of him. Likewise Farralone testifies that, having been intimate with this man, he too will swear that their act will be an act of Providence. In the end Death is decreed - against the man who has lived too long. Then the chairman adjourns the meeting 'til ten o'clock, at which hour they will determine upon which one of them will devolve the duty of destroying this marked man. The Chemist retires to the laboratory - to finish his little task. Forrest and Farralone leave the house to notify Lilith and bring her to the house.

Silently these two thread their way to Lilith's apartment. In the corridor, gravely, the two men toss coins to see who shall go up to see Lilith. Farralone wins and Forrest resigns himself to the situation. After a long moment, however, Farralone returns downstairs to Forrest. As Forrest enters Lilith's apartment she greets him with a gracious smile. He asks her if Farralone has told her. In the scene which follows Forrest declares his love. But Lilith has thoughts only for the Cause - and has none for Love. She hopes only that the one chosen for the duty will do that duty well. She takes her cloak and tells Forrest that they must go. Forrest declares that, many years, he has carried a license near his heart - in the hope... But Lilith only shakes her head - a little sadly.. At the foot of the stairs they rejoin Farralone and the trio start for the Brotherhood quarters.

Then o'clock finds them all gathered around council table, with the chemist explaining the peculiar mechanism of the infernal machine which he has devised. It is in the form of a cigar case - and a full turn of a monogram plate on its face will explode it within three minutes. After which the chairman calls order and then requests Lilith to draw the cards. The Ace of Hearts wins the prize. Long moments of suspense follow as Lilith, at the chairman's place, deals round after round from the neat deck. And at last, on the third deal, the Ace of Hearts falls to Forrest. A wave of grim disappointment plays upon the faces of the group - then they spring up to congratulate Forrest. He stammers out a few words. Lilith places her hand about his shoulders and tells him that he is wonderful. One of the older conspirators almost tearfully mutters that he is glad that he wasn't chosen - that it makes a difference when a man is married and has a family. At which Forrest draws himself well up and informs the assembly that nothing could make him wish that he had not been chosen. He tells

them of his plan of attack. Every morning at nine their man eats breakfast at a table at which he waits in a certain cafe. He will simply place the bomb on the chair opposite just two minutes before the man arrives. He will then have ample time for a get-away. Morgridge thereupon gives Forrest a roll of bills - to use in making his escape, in case he is not involved in the explosion. Then the meeting disbands.

Openly now Lilith, her face aglow with admiration for Forrest, tells him that there has never been anything else for her but the cause - and that now he and the cause are one and inseparable. She then wonders if, should she marry him, he would have more courage or less. Eagerly Forrest claims that it would give him a thousand times more courage. So Lilith tells him that, that night, she will marry him. Farralone steps up in protest - but Forrest tells him that he is most sincerely sorry. In a few moments Forrest and Lilith leave the room. Farralone is like a broken man; he says that he doesn't know how he is to live through the night..

A few hours later he meets Lilith and Forrest on the street. He asks them if they are married, and as an answer, Lilith shows him the tiny gold band on her left hand. It was once Forrest's mother's ring. Then they turn up a short flight of stairs and enter Forrest's flat. Farralone lingers outside. After a moment or so a sudden gust of wind is followed by a veritable cloud-burst. But apparently Farralone is oblivious to all the ragings of the elements, as if they but merged with the tempest within him. - - - In Forrest's apartment Lilith and Forrest adjust themselves to the new circumstances. Presently Forrest tells Lilith that, as he has to be at the restaurant at seven sharp - it is getting very late. Then he takes her into his arms and kisses her. Then he turns low the lights. -- Outside in the storm Farralone is watching the windows of Forrest's apartment. As they dim..and finally go out, he sinks down upon the wet coping and sobs out his grief.

Morning finds Farralone still on the steps. Sunshine has followed the storm as he awakens. In the rooms upstairs we see Forrest quietly dressing, in an effort to get away without waking his bride. Presently Lilith wakes and sits up. Forrest tells her that the weather, like their hearts, is changed.. In the scene which follows we are shown the workings of the hearts and minds which circumstance has changed. It seems to them now, so wrong to hate, now that they have learned to love; others may suffer besides the marked man.. In a sudden agony Lilith pleads with her husband to drop the bomb into the river, to flee with her; pleads with him not to perform his duty. But Forrest, after a bitter struggle against himself, holds firmly to his duty. After he has accomplished this one task he will be free - but he has given his word and it is now a matter of honor. At last he literally tears himself away - and leaves Lilith to her agony and tears..

Outside Farralone meets Forrest. Forrest assures him that he is firm of purpose; that he will not fail; but he begs Farralone to be very tender to Lilith - should he not return. Farralone turns in at the Brotherhood house - Forrest continues to his work. Inside the council room Farralone assures the anxious brothers that Forrest will not fail them.. -- In a few moments we see Forrest nervously donning his tuxedo, ready for his work. He cautiously slips the bomb into an inner pocket.

A little while later, when Farralone is alone in the council chamber, comes the signal knock at the door. He admits Lilith. Pale, trembling in her anxiety, Lilith stammers out that she is sure that Forrest is not going to do his duty. Farralone grips himself, then quietly informs her that traitors are punished with death. Lilith insists that she is right, but Farralone only shakes his head; Forrest, he claims, is a man of honor and will not fail them. Lilith tells him that had he drawn the Ace of Hearts, instead of Forrest, she might have married him..might have been pleading with Forrest for his life... This tells sharply on Farralone. After a moment of deliberation he turns to the girl and takes her firmly by the shoulders. Because he loves her, he says, he will make her a bargain. If for love of her Forrest fails.. he, Farralone, will see that they get away safely - if he meets his death thru the events of the day - she must marry him. Lilith grips herself and then quietly acquiesces. Then she moves away from him..finally toward the door. Here, however, Farralone intercepts her - she shan't go straight to Forrest. In agony Lilith looks up at the clock.. the hands read ten of nine, sobbing she sinks into a chair..

In the cafe we see a young couple sitting at a table near the windows.. the boy had clasped the girl's small foot between his ankles. As Forrest passes them he hears the youth murmur that they will be married before anyone knows that they've run away. It comes as a shock to Forrest. Holding himself under control he deftly slips the bomb under the chair opposite the one to be occupied by this man. We see that Forrest is troubled as he watches the two youngsters at the table nearby-- as he sees their happiness and their looks of love.

In the council chamber Farralone is talking with Lilith..asking her if she really meant that had he drawn the lucky card.. Lilith nods her head. Agony is in Farralone's looks as he glances toward the clock.. it is two minutes to nine..too late to phone Forrest now.. -- Back in the cafe Forrest, in waiting on the elopers, notes the tiny engagement ring on the girl's finger..watches their tender looks and hand clasps.. He glances at the clock - it is nine. Then his gaze rivets itself to the figure of a man coming down the long corridor - it is the man who has lived too long. -- The head waiter seats the man - Forrest stands ready to give the order. The marked man has a hard and narrow face, and his actions mark him as a man of cold cruelty. With face set rigid Forrest stands by as the man gives his order..

In the council chamber again we see the whole Brotherhood waiting in tense suspense. Presently a newsboy is heard calling an extra paper. The door man rushes outside and buys a paper. To the disgust of the waiting group it proves nothing but a Presidential message. But very presently comes the signal tap at the door. Forrest enters. He is as pale as Death, his face is drawn. The chairman glares at him when he quietly places the bomb on the table. An explanation is demanded. Then Forrest tells of the young lovers at the table.. tells them of the girl's pitifully small engagement ring.. and the way they clasped ankles under the table.. he couldn't do it, he could not bring himself to cause their death... At this Morgridge jumps to his feet. He bellows out his disgust ..tells them that love is destruction..tells Forrest that he should take the woman who has corrupted him and go - but that, in their usual way, the Brotherhood shall exact the manner of their Death and determine by whose hand they shall be destroyed.. Forrest turns to Morgridge and tells him to kill them now - and have it over with. The latter points to the door and bids them depart. Lilith takes her husband's arm and

together they leave the council chamber. As they depart we see Farralone slip the infernal machine into the drawer before him.

After they have gone Morgridge bids the brotherhood meet at seven, to take up this new situation. And the while Forrest and his bride, in the knowledge that while life lasts hope is with them, are making their get-away...

Sharp at seven meet the brotherhood in council and see Farralone before them, striving vainly to arouse sympathy for Forrest and his bride. He tells them that new light has come to him that day; that now he sees that the world needs, not a destructive reform, but a constructive force, needs love instead of hate.. Then he sits down. We see him slip his hands into the drawer and see his fingers turn the monogram plate on the cigar case. Then he closes the drawer and listens to Morgridge's talk. Presently he laughs outright. Angrily Morgridge demands his reason for laughing. Farralone laughs the harder, then states that, in a moment, they shall know but too well..

We now are taken to a mountain homestead, far removed from the paths of men. A well built log-cabin and a plot of cultivated ground marks the fact that both time and labor have been put into the place. Then we see Lilith, a baby in her arms, walking down a path to meet her husband. Then we see Forrest, an axe in hand, advancing happily to meet his wife and baby. They speak of their happiness.. and of the fact that Farralone must have found means to circumvent the brotherhood. The Forrest continues toward his work and Lilith and her baby return to the cabin. As Forrest makes his way thru the woods he stops suddenly as he sees, stuck in the bark of a pine tree, the Ace of Hearts. With a cry of dismay he rushes forward and seizes it.. then runs back to the cabin. He takes Lilith into his arms and gasps out that they have been living in a fool's paradise. In a moment they turn...

Down the path we now see Morgridge coming. One of his arms is gone, he limps painfully and walks with a cane. Grimly Forrest advances to meet him. Morgridge smiles as he approaches.. he tells Forrest to put down his axe.. that he wouldn't hurt them if he could.. that he has found that they were right.. that Farralone was right.. that destruction cannot hold the world, that the world needs construction, and that love is construction. They cross to the wide porch and sit down. Morgridge tells them that but three of the brotherhood are now alive.. Now in retrospect he tells the story of what happened. Again we see the group at council.. again see Farralone laughing as he tells them that soon they will know his joke.. then a terrific explosion.. then, after the smoke has cleared.. the mangled and torn bodies.. the arm of Farralone.. with the Ace of hearts clasped in its hand.. the police in the ruins.. And back again, we see Morgridge as he finishes the story of what Farralone did for love of Forrest and Lilith. Morgridge, it seems, was held for a while by the police, who proved nothing and had to free him. Since then he has been hunting for them.. to tell them that now they have nothing to fear.. And the picture closes with the happy group on the wide veranda, chatting peacefully..

The End.

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SEP -9 1921

Sept. 9, 1921.

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I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of
Goldwyn Pictures Corporation

THE ACE OF HEARTS (6 reels)

Respectfully,

Fulton Brylawski

The Goldwyn Pictures Corporation hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright Office as follows:

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date of Deposit</u> | <u>Registration</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| THE ACE OF HEARTS | 9/9/21 | ©CLL 16948 L: |

Copies Returned

12 SEP 24 1921

By *Delia Person*

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 9th day of Sept., 1921, and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies and the receipt thereof.

☆ O.K.-F.G.P.
SEP 15 1921

William D. Lusk

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